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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 04 SANAA 000671

SIPDIS

STATE FOR NEA

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/22/2014

TAGS: [PREL](#) [YM](#)

SUBJECT: ROYG PAPERS ON GMEI AND IRAQ/ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT  
FOR ARAB SUMMIT

Classified By: Ambassador Edmund J. Hull for Reasons 1.5 (b,d)

[1](#)1. (U) This is an action request. Please see paragraph 6.

[1](#)2. (C) ROYG Foreign Minister convoked Ambassador on 3/22 to pass for USG comment two papers on Iraq/Israel-Palestine and the Greater Middle East Initiative (full text paras 7 and 8, originals faxed to NEA/ARP) developed by the ROYG for the Arab Summit. Qirbi recalled his February 2004 discussions in Washington and Tampa during which American officials expressed interest in Arab initiative in these areas. Qirbi asked for any feedback before departing for Tunis 3/24 (see action request para 6). He said he had shared both documents with Saudi Prince Saud al-Faisal during his visit to Sana'a 3/21-22, and that the Prince's suggestions for modifications were taken into account.

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Arab Summit Draft Resolution  
on the Middle East Initiative  
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[1](#)3. (C) Qirbi said the ROYG prepared a draft resolution for the Arab Summit not just on the GMEI but on "all reform initiatives." He noted two other draft reform resolutions from Jordan and Egypt. The ROYG's position tracks closely with Jordan's. Qirbi said Arab governments must address the reform issue and not shy away from it. Full translated text of reform resolution is in paragraph 7. In brief, Qirbi highlighted the following:

-- leaders should address issue of modernization in Arab world, including reform, public participation and democracy;

-- references made to the Sana'a Declaration and other reform-oriented conferences in Doha, Manama, Amman and Alexandria (Comment: MEPI-sponsored conferences);

-- the role of the Arab League in reforms;

-- reforms should take place all over the Arab world and not just in a few countries;

-- participation from both governments and the public important;

-- reforms should include economic, good governance (including civil society), institution building, education. Other issues to address include achieving peace in the Middle East, freeing Middle East from Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) and fighting terrorism.

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Draft Yemeni Initiative to Restore Security and Stability  
of Iraq and Settle the Arab-Israel Conflict  
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[1](#)4. (C) When Ambassador asked Qirbi's opinion on the Transitional Administrative Law, Qirbi said it was "very good" with the exception of the right of any three governorates to veto measures which could counter the wishes of the majority. Full translated text of Iraq and Arab-Israel resolution is in paragraph 8. In brief, Qirbi only highlighted the following regarding Iraq:

-- a tri-partite group should be established to set up a road map for Iraq, to include United Nations, Arab League and Coalition members, with representatives from the Iraq Governing Council; The plan should include the following:

-- the unity of Iraq must be maintained;

-- security should be established by an international force under the United Nations;

-- occupying forces should leave the cities;

-- a General Assembly should be established to develop the constitution and election law (that should include a provision that parties should not be established along religious or ethnic grounds);

-- Iraqi security forces must be established.

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Comment/Action Request  
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15. (C) Comment: The ROYG appears to be trying to find a constructive position on both reform and Iraq/Arab-Israel conflict to present at the Arab Summit. Regarding reform, Yemen has benefited from MEPI and feels less threatened by reform than some other Arab governments because the Yemeni experience with political parties, elections, etc. has been largely positive. End Comment.

16. (C) Action Request: If Department would like Post to provide any comments to the ROYG regarding its resolution (para 6), please provide points prior to FM Qirbi's departure for Tunis early on 3/24.

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Full Text of Arab Summit Draft Resolution  
on the Middle East Initiative  
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17. (C) Informal translation of full text of draft reform resolution follows.  
Republic of Yemen  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Arab Summit Draft Resolution on the Middle East Initiative  
Tunisia, March 29-30, 2004

-- From our belief in the importance of modernizing and developing the mechanism of joint Arab work that will achieve comprehensive and balanced development for all Arab states.

-- And emphasizing our conviction that the Arab reform process is a whole that cannot be split and a common responsibility of the rulers and peoples and that all official and public efforts, therefore, must be incorporated to accomplish the reform and provide an awakening Arab atmosphere that brings about prosperity and development and preserve the identity and faith of the Arab nation.

-- And from our belief that reforms must spring from the will and conviction of the people and that the people's peculiarities must be taken into consideration in order to achieve the required results represented by justice, freedom, democracy, public participation, activating the role of women and construction of a knowledge society.

-- Conviction that dealing with political problems in the Middle East through observance of international legitimacy resolutions related to the Palestinian issue, liberation of occupied Arab territories, the Iraqi issue, and to avoid implementing double standards as is the case of possession of WMD - all these form an entryway for the success of reform steps in the region.

-- Starting from these all, and according to the clear Arab position towards reform and democratic practice and human rights which Sanaa Declaration has embodied, and the results of conferences that were conducted in Amman, Manama, Doha and Alexandria regarding democracy, freedom and reform, we decide:

1. To activate the role of the Arab League as a tool for Arab joint work, make the necessary amendments to its charter so that it will carry out its role in forming equivalent Arab-Arab relations, and lead the reform process in parallel steps in all Arab countries through official and public contributions, issuing of conventions and agreements that promote the democratic and human rights tracks and make their protection a common Arab responsibility.

2. To set and implement a complete Arab strategy for reforms with the public participation and free will that spring from the aspirations of the peoples of the region, which will accomplish minimum social movement for reform, considering values, traditions, religious teachings and civilization values.

3. To carry out economic reforms that will lead to the enhancement of the common interests between Arab countries through stepping gradually from Greater Arab Trade Zone, to the Customs Union, to Arab Common Market, liberating markets, establishment of development, investment and compensation funds for the accomplishment of comprehensive economical and development merger in all Arab countries. Participant countries also called on to encourage this direction and to dedicate the necessary support for it in addition to what the Arab states are offering.

4. To make a foundation for peoples, participation through forms of revival process within the framework of gradualness, reality and transparency, and giving the citizens the right for freedom of speech, establishing civil society organizations, activation of women's role in development and granting her all political and social rights in a way that

doesn't conflict with the traditions and the true religious teachings.

15. To work towards developing the institution building of the state, the right governance, separation of authorities, accountability, and the assurance of judiciary independence.

16. To take the necessary steps that ensure building the knowledge society, promoting the educational systems, and eliminating the obstacles that hinder the Arab world from coping with the knowledge process or that which led to wrong understandings of dealing with the others, along with the emphasis on tolerant Islamic values that call for freedom, justice, and respect of others beliefs.

17. To continue the efforts that aim to realize the just comprehensive peace in the Middle East region, through adhering to the Arab Peace Initiative, the Road Map, and international resolutions. Work with the international society for eliminating tension and violence from the region by solving the Palestinian issue in accordance with the treaties and resolutions that call for the establishing two states, Palestinian and Israeli that live side by side in peace and with total sovereignty and means of existence. Also ending the occupation of the Syrian and Lebanese lands and ending the occupation of Iraq through working with the United Nations and Coalition powers and the Iraqi temporary Authority, considering that solving these problems will result to the stability of the region and will lead its energies toward construction and development.

18. To work for making the Middle East region free of weapons of mass destruction and compliance of all states, including Israel, to the signing of the agreement of nuclear weapons, because elimination of such weapons enhances elimination of elements of doubt and fear among states of the region.

19. Commitment of all Arab states with the international community in combating terrorism with the necessity to deal with its reasons and differentiation between terrorism and legitimate resistance to occupation.

10. Arab Foreign Ministers Council is assigned to make plans and mechanism for achieving these objectives to be presented to the Summit of 2005 for approval.

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Full Text of Draft Yemeni Initiative to Restore  
Security and Stability of Iraq and  
Settle the Arab-Israel Conflict  
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18. (C) Informal translation of full text of draft initiative follows.

Yemeni Initiative to Restore Security and Stability of Iraq  
and Settle the Arab-Israel Conflict

First: The Iraqi Crisis:

1. Forming a tripartite committee including the United Nations, the Arab League and the Coalition Forces along with the Iraqi Governing Council. The committee will be responsible for setting up a road map for Iraq. The plan will be as follows:

(a) Guarantee of the unity of Iraqi territories, confronting any secessionist tendencies, the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Iraq and putting an end to occupation.

(b) Setting up a security plan to restore security and stability of Iraq and sending international forces to Iraq under the supervision of the United Nations and the Arab League.

(c) The withdrawal of occupation forces to camps outside of the Iraqi cities upon the arrival of the international forces.

(d) Forming a national society representing all sects and races in order to formulate the Iraqi constitution under the supervision of the above-mentioned tripartite committee and conduct general elections within the period of a year. For the elections, there must be an elections law that rejects the establishment of any political parties based on race, religion or sect and gets all political parties to represent all the people of Iraq in order to ensure the creation of a democratic, united and independent Iraq.

(e) Reformation of army and security forces according to a patriotic basis with no doctrinal or racial loyalties. All of this process must be finalized during a period of two years and end with the withdrawal of the occupation forces and the retention of the international forces.

Second: The Arab-Israeli Conflict:

The reinvigoration of the Quartet,s role in implementing the Road Map in order to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict, joining of the Arab League in the Quartet and considering the Arab Peace Initiative a complementary part of the Road Map provided that the Committee performs the following:

11. Sending international forces to separate Israelis and Palestinians according to the borders of June 5, 1967.
12. Requesting both the Israeli and the Palestinian parties to stop violence and announce a truce stipulated by a United Nations Security Council resolution and in a way that leads to the implementation of the Road Map, the commitment to the relevant United Nations Security Council,s resolutions in particular resolutions Nos. 242 and 338 and the establishment of the Palestinian State based on the borders of June 5, 1967.
13. The announcement of an Arab decision stipulating the unity of the Palestinian factions under a united leadership formed of all parties.
14. Making efforts to remove the racist separation wall.
15. Launching the process of reconstruction of Palestine with all its organizations and in particular the security organizations.
16. The withdrawal of Israel from the occupied Syrian and Lebanese territories in the framework of a timeline plan and Arab-Israeli agreement that ensures both Arab and Israel rights.
17. Committing to the announcement of Middle East Region being free from weapons of mass destruction and placing a plan to eliminate them from all the regions countries including Israel.
18. Holding a peace conference for the Region States after the announcement of establishing the Palestinian State and the removal of the weapons of mass destruction from the region and the withdrawal of Israel from the occupied Arab territories.

HULL